(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in affirmative what are the details thereof; and

(d) if reply to part (b) above be in negative what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Double Decker coaches at present are used on the Inter-city Expresses only. Considering the high cost of production, use of such coaches may not be financially viable besides being inconvenient for Suburban operation.

Number of persons killed and injured on Suburban Railways, Bombay

3693. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of persons who have been (i) killed and (ii) injured separately in 1990 till date on suburban section of Railways in Bombay suburban, while crossing railway lines, hit by poles while travelling, run over by trains while crossing lines etc.; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to reduce this number ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) 1514 persons were killed and 833 injured during 1990 (upto August).

(b) The following preventive steps have been taken by the Government :—

1. Announcements are made on Public Address system at the stations.
2. Posters and caution boards are displayed for warning public.
3. Raids are conducted to prevent roof top & foot board travel and tress-passing.
4. Foot-over bridges have been/are being provided at affected places.

Replacement of Rake of the train 'Palace on Wheels'

3694. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) when the Project 'Palace on Wheels' was introduced and what was the number of passengers carried and the occupancy percentage for the last three years and upto 31st July, 1990;

(b) whether in 1989 it was decided to have a new rake Centrally airconditioned to be run as 'Palace on Wheels' for which the responsibility was announced by the Railways by sharing 60 per cent and 40 per cent by R.T.D.C., if so, what is the Ministry of Railway's share for the year 1990-91 and the amount paid so far to State Government;

(c) what is the present number of coaches including residential coaches, restaurant cars and service coaches in this train and what was the cost of renovation during 1989-90 and likely cost in 1990-91; and

(d) by when, decision on cost of sharing between the Central Government and State Government of Rajasthan regarding new rake is likely to be taken and what is the total investment expected in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) The 'Palace on Wheels' train was introduced in 1982. This train runs during winter season between October to March. The number of passengers carried and the occupancy percentage for the last three years are as under :

Year	*No. of passengers carried*	*Occupancy percentage*
1987-88	1747	75.1
1988-89	2212	93.1
1989-90	2282	95.06

(b) It has been decided to make a new airconditioned rake, which is to be commisioned in October, 1991. In 1990-91, the old rake will be run and the earnings will be shared in the ratio of 65 : 35 between Railways and RTDC. The ratio of share for the new AC rake has not yet been decided. The share of RTDC out of the net earnings from 1982-83 amounts to Rs. 373 lakhs.

(c) The rake of 'Palace on Wheels' comprises of 20 coaches. The cost of renovation of the rake during 1989-90 was 14.64 lakhs. The cost for renovation during 1990-91 is estimated to be Rs. 16.10 lakhs.

(d) The estimated cost of the new AC rake (without spares) is Rs. 6.24 crores. The question of sharing the investment cost will be decided before the new rake is commissioned.

Beggars in Delhi

3695 SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have undertaken any survey regarding the number of Beggars in the capital in 1990; and

(b) if so, whether any rehabilitation programme are proposed to banish beggar in Delhi and provide gainful employment to beggars ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Delhi Administration has estimated that there are about 10,000 beggers in Delhi.

(b) The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, as extended to the Union Territory of Delhi and Delhi Prevention of Begging Rules, 1960, are in force in the Union Territory of Delhi. These help to reduce the menace of beggary in the capital to a great extent. Although, at present there is no proposal to ban beggary in the capital, a number of vocational trainings like cutting & tailoring, soap making, bandage cutting, shoe-making, weaving, laundry, matches making etc. are being imparted to the beggars for their rehabilitation. Besides, the beggars are provided with free board and lodging in Beggar's Homes.

Closing of Passage to cremation Yard in village Arakpur Bagh Mochi, New Delhi

3696. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a cremation ground measuring about 700 sq yards in village Arakpur Bagh Mochi near Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the passage to this cremation ground has been closed; and a part between constructed by DDA and a nursery by the Horticulture departments depriving the residents of the nearly villages of the cremation ground for burning their deads;

(c) whether Government have received a number of representations from different quarters to open a passage to the cremation ground for the convenience of the residents in the area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Enquiry into the representation against blocking of passage to the cremation ground in village Arakpur Bag Mochi has revealed that the cremation site is located at the back of Smriti Vatika Park and development in the area is being carried out jointly by the Delhi Administration/Railways. Access to the cremation ground site is however available through the road leading to Chanakyapuri.

Construction of over-bridge in Maharashtra

3697. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question 1360 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 1990 and state :

(a) whether the Central Government have received the final proposal sponsored by the State Government of Maharashtra for construction of over-bridges at Tadali and Bisapur Railway crossings;

(b) whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, what is the present position with regard to the construction of the above bridges; and

(d) what is the amount earmarked for the same and the expected date of the completion of the over-bridges ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) Not yet sir.

(b) No, Sir.